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Exhibition on Halley's Comet at the Library Features Historic Books and Prints

An exhibition of some twenty-five printed items relating to the phenomenon of Halley's Comet and comets in general has opened at the Library of Congress. The exhibit will be open to the public through May 26, Monday through Friday on the sixth floor of the James Madison Memorial Building.

The current return of Halley's Comet has awakened a new interest in comets among persons who had otherwise been indifferent to cometary science. It is to satisfy their interest that what amounts to a worldwide celebration has emerged: books and articles are being published; poems and stories written; music composed; cartoons, jokes, toys, and souvenirs of every description devised; works of art created; and symposia, lectures, exhibitions, tours, cruises, and comet-watching nights organized. In keeping with this interest, the Library is presenting this exhibit tracing the growth of knowledge about the comet whose 1758 return Sir Edmond Halley accurately predicted.

Included in the items on display are a depiction of Halley's Comet from the 12th century, from Folio 10 in the facsimile production of the *Canterbury Psalms;* the *Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica* (the third book of Isaac Newton's *Principia, 1714),* which concerns itself with the motion of the solar system and deals at length with the comet of 1680/81; a map, *A Scheme of the Solar System,* with the orbits of the planets and comets as described from Halley's Table of Comets, 1730; lithographs of drawings of sketches made by Thomas Maclear of the comet in late 1835 and early 1836; a lithographic advertisement for Moet et Chandon White Star Champagne, of the Comet, in 1910; printed sheet music from pieces

(Continued on p. 98)

Also in This Issue . . .

Cynthia Anne Gossom is named personnel security officer 98

LCIB celebrates anniversary 98

Library publishes 12th volume of *Letters of Delegates* 99

Meetings and events around the Library 100

Halley's *(Continued from p. 97)*
composed for the comet's appearance in 1910, acquired through copyright deposit; and the volume tracing the history of the world from creation until August 3, 1492, mentioning comets as far back as 684. There is also a list of "Read More About It" suggestions, including *Halley's Comet: A Bibliography,* by Ruth S. Freitag (Washington, Library of Congress, 1984), and *Halley's Comet: Encounter 1986* by Gustav A. Tammann and Philippe Vernon (Boston, Birkhauser, 1985).

Cynthia Anne Gossom Is Named Personnel Security Officer

Cynthia Anne Gossom, the Library's Assistant Personnel Security Officer for almost two years, has been named the head of that office, effective March 31. Ms. Gossom succeeds Joseph M. Love, who retired in January.

The Personnel Security Office administers the Federal Employees Security Program for the Library and is responsible for identifying sensitive positions within the agency, scheduling required personnel security investigations, and reaching suitability and security determinations. The office is also charged with granting security clearances to those staff members needing access to classified information, establishing personnel security policies and procedures to conform to the Government-wide program, and maintaining liaison with other Federal agencies in this area.

Before coming to the Library of Congress in April 1984, Ms. Gossom worked for the Office of Security of the U.S. Department of State, beginning in 1978 as a special agent assigned investigative and protective security responsibilities, and culminating in an appointment to the position of security officer in the Division of Evaluations in December 1981. As security officer, she was responsible for personnel security adjudications, for the revision of a Foreign Affairs Manual regulation on personnel security matters, for managing the design and implementation of an automated office information system, and for the office's annual budget proposal. During the last several months of her tenure with the Office of Security, she was detailed to the Employee Branch as sole case officer responsible for presidential appointments. Ms. Gossom's previous experience included employment with the World Bank in 1976–78 and summer employment with the U.S. Department of State while she was in college.

A native of Washington, D.C., Ms. Gossom attended J.E.B. Stuart High School in Falls Church, Va., and graduated in 1976 from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. A French major, Ms. Gossom was a dean's list student during her entire college career. She has also completed graduate courses in business at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. Ms. Gossom resides in Arlington, Va.

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Comparable institutions and organizations in other countries may arrange to receive the *Bulletin* on an exchange basis by applying in writing to the Library's Exchange and Gift Division. All other correspondence should be addressed to the LC *Information Bulletin,* Information Office, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540.

Bruce Tapper, Editor

Information Bulletin Celebrates Its Anniversary

Former Information Officer and onetime Bulletin *editor Helen-Anne Hilker shares a moment with John Finzi, director, Collections Development Office, at the aniversary celebration.*

Approximately 70 staff members from around the Library of Congress celebrated the 45th anniversary of the LC *Information Bulletin* last month in the Information Office with coffee and a birthday cake. A copy of Volume 1, Number 1—dated January 23,

(Continued on p. 99)

April 7, 1986

STAFF NEWS

1985–86 Interns Celebrate Their Graduation

The 1985–86 Intern Program ended successfully on January 27 with a graduation celebration and brunch held in the Whittall Pavilion. Deputy Librarian of Congress William J. Welsh awarded certificates to the 11 members of the intern class.

The event marked the completion of the 20-week program which began last September. The program combined lectures, seminars, discussions, and work assignments to give interns an opportunity to view the Library's many activities and provide a thorough knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the Library's many functions.

With this year's class, a total of 359 interns have completed the program since it began in 1949.

Members of the 1985–86 intern class, along with The Deputy Librarian, the professional advisor, and the program coordinator, are (seated left to right) Melissa C. Flannery, Gerald N. Burguera, Laura Kells, and Wanda Redmond; (standing left to right) Michelle Springer, William J. Welsh, Elizabeth D. Maloney, Frederic P. Protopappas, Rebecca Mazur, Karen Wood, Jane Englund, Joseph J. Keenan, Jr., Roberta I. Shaffer (professional advisor), and Brent L. Kendrick (program coordinator).

Library Staffer Looks at Life as a Beach With Publication of New Guide Book

The popular galaxy of famous writers does not often include the likes of William Gaddis, Don Delillo, Frederick Exley, or Harold Brodkey, and perhaps the main reason that Alan Bisbort is not better known is the fact that he is unpublished. Up to now, that is. Alan Bisbort, a deck attendant in the Collections Management Division, is looking forward to the May publication of his book, *Life Is A Beach: A Vacationer's Guide to the East Coast* (McGraw-Hill). Soon to be available in bookstores, the book was researched and co-written with Parke Puterbaugh. As Alan puts it, "the book is an irreverent look at the eastern seaboard habitats, like Hunter Thompson meeting the Frommer's guides on the dunes of Fire Island." It's an informative and factual vacationer's guide for people who don't like to think they're tourists and always yearn for that certain something that has yet to be discovered or "in."

Alan Bisbort is a hungry and determined writer first and everything else second. He is a man of many unorthodox moves but has come to grips with discipline, realizing that the writer's craft demands its dues. Though he works 47 hours a week, 20 part-time at the Library, and 27 at Wayward Books near the Eastern Market, he still manages to complete 100 pages per month on his latest manuscript, a novel. As a deck attendant, Mr. Bisbort's job is to retrieve and reshelve books and assist readers in the reading rooms.

Bisbort says about his joint project with Parke Puterbaugh, "A general guidebook of the sort we hoped to write is always the collage of many different sources. Because we wanted to touch on several aspects of each and every beach community we visited—the natural, the historical, the sociological, the counter-cultural, the legends, the foods, the social-gathering watering holes—the Library's unrivalled collection became an unexpected treasure trove."

Bisbort was born in Tokyo, Japan, in 1953. His parents now reside in Atlanta, Ga.: his father a retired Army Colonel, and his mother a travel agent. He graduated in 1977 from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, with a B.A. in English literature. He joined the Library of Congress staff in December 1977, first working in the Loan Division (for four years) and then in the Inventory Unit of the Collections Management Division (for two years) before temporarily resigning in July 1984 to write his first book. He returned to the Library in April 1985 to work again in Collections Management.

A lover of athletics, especially baseball, Bisbort claims that the only organization that he has ever joined since graduating from college has been the Library's softball league where he was player-manager from 1979–1983. His love of baseball and its attendant imitation of life transcends his feelings for what others think of him and his fellow writers; but he believes that too much undue criticism comes the writer's way and they are unfortunately not well regarded in the "real world." "Why the bad rep for most writers?" he asks; "not everyone can be a critical and monetary success." Says Bisbort, "Unfortunately, to many people the word 'writer' is a misnomer. Too often the uninitiated cannot fathom the constant struggle, the torment of just sitting down and facing a blank piece of paper and making the attempt to impart either knowledge, experiences, or fantasy to others via the printed medium. In an article on budgeting time for after-work writers, as quoted in *The Washington Post*, Dec. 27, 1985, he stated, "Nose to the grindstone. . . do it every day whether you're sick or well. . . I don't ever question myself."

Author Alan Bisbort at Wayward Books. (Sullivan photo)

Bisbort and Puterbaugh combined for the unusual work of their vacationer's guide project. They covered more than 400 beaches during the two-year stretch it took to write the book. A preplanned itinerary was necessary to canvass such a large area of the east coast, from Campobello Island in New Brunswick to Key West in Florida. Not only the little-known beach areas are mentioned but the offerings of the many state parks, the availability of accommodations and food, and the local highlights are provided in colorful anecdotes.

Bisbort believes that there are two types of beach vacations: those for seekers of solitude, unspoiled beaches, and brief time-sharing titillations; and the

more hedonistic pursuits of flashy boardwalks, neon honky-tonks, and singles bars. Bisbort believes that his book caters to several audiences and is therefore unique.

"We went into this book as friends of long-standing, steeped in the noble tradition of the American open road—anything from Whitman to Kerouac to Henry Miller to Paul Theroux—but we were also determined to have a good time and not get carried away with an over-grandness of purpose. The result, we hope, is a travel guide that is more useful than most we've seen, one that can also be read as a travelogue, written as it was over the course of a two-year journey.

Life Is A Beach suggests a number of places easily accessible for both lifestyles, from the Jersey Shore to Kiawah Island in South Carolina. An example from the book includes the following reference to the Jersey Shore: "Like a sugar-coat of icing on the Carvel sheet-cake of New Jersey, a chain of barrier islands and a white sandy shoreline provide the state with its summer retreat from the heat, beat, and concrete of its cities. Well, sort of. They refer to this disjointed coastline as a single entity, 'the Jersey Shore,' and from Sandy Hook to Cape May, it does manage to have one item in common: the ocean. This distinguishes it from, say, the mountains or the Pine Barrens. Beyond that, the surf rolls over all sorts of diverse turf, from the berserk, carnival-like frenzy of Jersey's boardwalk-spined beaches to the calmer havens of the south shore. . . . It's not necessarily that they can't believe New Jersey owns a coastline; what is inconceivable is that a civilized person would voluntarily go there for a summer vacation."

Then to the more serious exploration of Kiawah Island: "Many moons ago, when the land was primeval and the Indians aboriginal, the Kiawah tribe inhabited the low country of South Carolina. They walked here, the story goes, from Siberia, crossing the Bering Strait thousands of years before it was an international crime to do so. They were nomads, hunters, wanderers who had no homeland . . . until, that is, they reached this region. Humbled by their new paradise by the sea, they ceased their wandering, set about fishing and farming, and by the time the white man arrived without reservation, the Kiawah were so content that they 'cheerfully shared their land' with him (or so the guidebooks cheerfully revise). . . [and] Backed by money from all over the world—the largest investor was the oil-rich country of Kuwait—and proceeding from a stated commitment to do things correctly, the Kiawah Island visionaries uncharacteristically did not even break ground until an exhaustive 16-month study determined the environmental impact of a resort upon the ecology of the island. The result was a game plan that earned the begrudging respect of even environmental groups. From the beginning, there was a dedication to the preservation of the island's rich wilderness and wildlife that continues to this day. It is a governing philosophy that is so pure, it is almost suspect—you don't expect these things of resort developers, whose slash-and-burn mentality has desecrated many a mile of shoreline."

Fellow Library staff members continue to encourage Bisbort in ventures within the publishing world, as do his employers at Wayward Books, Sybil Pike and Doris Grumbach, both well known in Washington literary circles. Bisbort's work may also soon be seen in the forthcoming *Washington Boast,* an April 1st parody of a well-known paper. Also, drop on in at the Tune Inn of an afternoon and exchange draughty pleasantries with Bisbort. A large, likeable man with a baseball cap and a sheaf of papers, he'll enjoy your company.

[This profile by John Sullivan is part of a continuing series of articles about Library staff members. Suggestions for future articles are welcomed.]

Dorothy Hardy Receives 1985 Helping Hands Award

Dorothy Hardy, MARC Editorial Division, was presented the first annual Helping Hands Award at the Union 2477 bi-monthly lunch seminar on February 20 in the Mumford Room. She was nominated for the award by union member John Heckel. Following nominating rules, Mr. Heckel cited 10 characteristics qualifying Mrs. Hardy to be the "Most Helpful Co-Worker." Mr. Heckel, who is deaf, cited her most unique characteristic as "learning sign-language in order to communicate with a deaf co-worker."

The Helping Hands Award, an annual rotating award, is a custom-framed print of the Albrecht Durer drawing "The Praying Hands." Bronze plaques attached to the art identify the award, the recipient, and year of receipt.

The "Most Helpful Co-Worker" retains the award for one year. The union member nominating the winner is awarded a fine brass candleholder.

Union bulletin boards and fliers will have information on the 1986 Helping Hands Award in the fall. Staff should be alert for especially helpful co-workers deserving to be nominated.

Richard S. Angell Dies

Richard S. Angell, the first chief of the Copyright Office Cataloging Division, died December 8, 1985, at his home in Bethesda, Md. He was 80 years old.

He was named chief of the Cataloging Division in 1946 when that division was created in the reorganization of the Copyright Office.

Mr. Angell redefined and professionalized the copyright cataloging work and enlarged the *Catalog of Copyright Entries*. He was also a pioneer in studying ways to integrate the product of the Copyright Office Cataloging Division with Library of Congress cataloging.

Mr. Angell received a B.S. degree from Princeton University, an M.A. degree in music from Harvard University, and did advanced study in musicology at Columbia University, where he was assistant professor in the School of Library Service before going to the Copyright Office. In 1951, he left the Copyright Office to become chief of the Descriptive Cataloging Division in the Processing Department. Later he headed the Subject Cataloging Division and the Technical Processes Research Office.

Among his many accomplishments in the Library of Congress was his work in directing the formulation of the K schedule for classifying law materials. He was the recipient of numerous awards and held a considerable number of committee assignments within the Library and with professional library groups both here and abroad. He retired from the Library in 1973.

His survivors include his wife, Dorothy Shugg Angell of Bethesda, two children, and five grandchildren.

Marriage Announcement

Theresa A. Davis and **Charles Michael Beckett** were married in a double ring ceremony at the Church of the Nazarene in Indian Head, Md., on December 23, 1985.

Ms. Beckett is a library technician in the Reference and Bibliography Section, Copyright Information and Reference Division, and Mr. Beckett is a fireman with the Alexandria, Va., Fire Department.

Margaret Gresh and **Warren Cytron** were married on February 9 at the home of the groom's parents in Brooklyn, N.Y. Mrs. Cytron is assistant head of the Publications and Media Section, NLS/BPH. Mr. Cytron is a visual arts examiner in the Copyright Office.

LCPA Booksale to Be Held May 6

It's time to spring-clean your bookshelves! The Fifteenth Annual Library of Congress Professional Association (LCPA) Booksale is planned for May 6 in the Adams Building. The room number will be announced. As is the custom, donors will have first chance to purchase books on the day of the sale.

The 10 LCPA members listed below have volunteered to accept donations and issue receipts. They will accept books, magazines, records, posters, tapes (audio and video), and optical disks from April 1 through May 5.

Madison Building:		
Dawn Thompson	LM 513, green core	ext. 78346
Steve Rosenblatt	LM 438, red core	ext. 76768
Betsy Reifsnyder	LM 219, yellow core	ext. 77984
Mike Buscher	LM B05, blue core	ext. 78550
Adams Building:		
Mary Kramer	LA 5139	ext. 76325
Annette Hale	LA 5139	ext. 77809
Jefferson Building:		
Ron Bluestone	LJ 122C	ext. 75521/25
Mark Matyccu	LJ G132	ext. 77924
Taylor Street Annex:		
Jim Herndon	Coll. Dev. Sect.	ext. 79233
Navy Yard:		
Serge Demidenko	Bldg. 159E	ext. 76254

Fred Bauman (ext. 71617) is seeking fiscally astute volunteers to serve as cashiers during the sale. To volunteer for a cashier's slot—there are many available—call Fred Bauman or Annette Hale, booksale chair.

Anniversary *(Continued from p. 98)*

1942—was given to each guest. Established by Librarian of Congress Archibald MacLeish, the first "Library of Congress Staff Information Bulletin," as it was called, reflects the concerns of wartime.

"An air raid precautions watch of 24 hours daily, 7 days a week, will be inaugurated at 8 a.m., Sunday, Jan. 25th" says the lead paragraph. The same issue also announces the appointment of Thomas Mann as consultant in German literature, a showing of D. W. Griffith's film "Intolerance," and Alan Lomax singing and presenting documentary recordings of reactions of people to the war. Free copies of Vol. 1, No. 1, are available from the Information Office.

Volume 12 of *Letters of Delegates* Is Published by the Library

The Library of Congress announces the publication of Volume 12 of Letters of Delegates to Congress, 1774–1789, the latest in a series of some 25 volumes expected to be completed during the next decade. This new edition will supersede the eight-volume *Letters of Members of the Continental Congress* prepared by Edmund C. Burnett 60 years ago as the authoritative source for studying the correspondence of the 343 delegates who attended the Continental Congresses during the American Revolution.

Volume 12, covering the period February 1 through May 31, 1779, opens amid a congressional inquiry into the conduct of the American commissioners in Europe. In addition to previously unpublished minutes of the proceedings of the investigating committee, this volume also contains numerous manuscripts from the papers of Henry Laurens and Richard Henry Lee relating to this acerbic debate.

Other manuscripts document the hostility of French Ambassador Gerard to Arthur Lee and the attempts of Lee's friends and foes alike to secure Gerard's support. Pennsylvania's campaign to convict Benedict Arnold for malfeasance is also recorded in several documents in this volume, as a congressional committee was appointed to investigate the state's charges, and delegates such as William Duer and Gouverneur Morris were forced to defend themselves against accusations of abetting Arnold's cause and obstructing Pennsylvania's efforts.

Equally significant are documents covering the congressional debate on peace terms, which opened in February after Congress was informed that Spain had made an offer to mediate an end to the Anglo-American war. In due course, the debate covered the future boundaries of the United States, the status of Nova Scotia, Canada, and the Floridas, and the navigation of the Mississippi River. For weeks, American claims to the North Atlantic fisheries provided the focus of discussion and divided the delegates along sectional lines so bitterly that the military cooperation of the states was imperiled.

The volume also includes correspondence on requests for exemptions to the embargo on provisions from states experiencing grain shortages, as well as material concerning prize cases that illustrate reluctance to accept Continental jurisdiction in admiralty appeals. The British conquest of Georgia during the winter had the unexpected result of reversing southern opposition to recruiting black troops, and along with the invasion of the Chesapeake in May underscored the seriousness of the military threat facing Congress and the states.

This volume also contains significant new documentary material on Congress' struggle with inflation, efforts to supervise the commissary and quartermaster departments, the adverse impact of French naval procurement activities on the Continental dollar, the movement in Philadelphia to regulate prices, and the reopening of the Vermont controversy.

The visit of several Delaware Indian chiefs to Congress in May is detailed in previously unpublished speeches of the Committee for Indian Affairs, in letters by committee chairman James Duane, and in the personal notes of Henry Laurens of a committee conference with the chiefs.

The editors of the *Letters* project, Paul H. Smith, Gerard W. Gawalt, and Ronald M. Gephart, have drawn upon more than 22,000 documents assembled from hundreds of depositories and private collections from all over America and western Europe. In the work of collecting this store of information, they have had the assistance of dozens of devoted librarians and archivists, in addition to private collectors in every part of the country. They have attempted to deal with all the extant documents written by the delegates during their periods of attendance in Congress.

"By making more widely available basic research materials on a crucial chapter in American history, the project will facilitate humanistic scholarship," were the words of Ford Foundation president McGeorge Bundy in 1970 when support for the project was announced.

Letters of Delegates to Congress, 1774–1789 is available by mail from Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402, or in person only from the Information Counter on the ground floor, Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Building. Volume 12 (595 p.) sells for $20 (Stock No. 030-000-00161-3). Future volumes will be announced as they are published. Previous volumes, at various prices, are still available from the Superintendent of Documents.

Meetings and Events Around the Library

Wednesday, April 16

☐ "The Impact of Gramm-Rudman-Hollings on Libraries," Rep. Major Owens (D-N.Y.), Committee on Education and Labor and Committee on Government Operations, U.S. House of Representatives. An LC Professional Association program. Mumford Room, 12:10 p.m. **For members and staff.**

Thursday, April 17

☐ Support Group for Active Scholars. LC Professional Association. Room LM 642, 12:10 p.m. **For members and staff.**

☐ Juilliard String Quartet. Coolidge Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Friday, April 18

☐ Juilliard String Quartet. Coolidge Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Monday, April 21

☐ Literary program to be announced. Coolidge Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, April 22

☐ "The Use of Photographs for Persuasion," Kathleen Collins, Prints and Photographs Division. Special Interest Group on American Studies/Special Collections. LC Professional Association. Room LM 642, 12:10 p.m. **For members and staff.**

☐ "Lobbying for Libraries," Eileen Cooke, executive director, Washington, D.C., office of the American Library Association. An LC Professional Association program. Mumford Room, 12:10 p.m. **For members and staff.**

Thursday, April 24

☐ Bluegrass, Free Noontime Concert Series, American Folklife Center. Neptune Plaza, 12 noon.

☐ Discussion of the Histories of Herodotus. Great Books Study Group. LC Professional Association. Room LM 642, 12:10 p.m. **For members and staff.**

☐ "Bluegrass: A History," Neil Rosenberg, professor of folklore, Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada. Whittall Pavilion. 4:30 p.m.

Friday, April 25

☐ Festival of American Chamber Music. Coolidge Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Saturday, April 26

☐ Festival of American Chamber Music. Coolidge Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Events are open to the public unless otherwise specified.

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